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\$170,000 SENT TO AID CAMBODIA

NEW YORK -- In the first week of February, the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has sent \$170,000 to aid disaster victims in Cambodia. This represents the latest expenditure from an appeal that raised over \$450,000 last year.

Acting on a board of director's authorization, the Fund's director, the Rev. Samir J. Habiby, sent \$150,000 to Church World Service, the relief and resettlement agency of the National Council of Churches. The amount includes \$25,000 for the World Council of Churches programs and \$25,000 for a special emergency appeal to aid refugees in camps on the Thailand border.

In the year that the appeal has been underway, the Episcopal Church, working through Church World Service, has had a role in supporting English-language classes in the camps, providing food, medication, health care, communication and direct support for the hundreds of thousands of refugees thrown up by terrorist Southeast Asian regimes.

Along with the major grant to Church World Service, the Fund also sent \$20,000 to Meals for Millions special Cambodian effort which will supply irrigation equipment and desperately needed seed kits to Cambodians. The project hopes to raise \$100,000 to supply 45,000 such kits totalling five metric tons of seed which could be planted immediately.

In other action in early February, the Fund responded to an appeal -- again from Church World Service -- for monies to provide legal services and a settlement shelter for Haitians who exist in a legal and political limbo.

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The Fund sent \$10,000 to the appeal: \$5,000 for a refugee center and \$5,000 for legal aid. Haitians, who must risk an 800-mile open sea journey to reach the U.S., have failed to win U.S. Government status as refugees. They are allegedly in great danger if they are forcibly returned to Haiti and have been supported by a number of Church and secular groups who are also working to have their legal status changed.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: The two enclosed photographs -- #80046/1 and /2 -- are from World Vision International and credit should be given if they are used. By special arrangement with World Vision, these photographs are distributed for use in Episcopal Church publications only.)

PICTURE CAPTIONS

80046/1 The Episcopal Church has responded to some of the urgent needs of children like this one who is in a Thailand refugee camp. This child is one of many who have been displaced from their native Kampuchea (Cambodia). Church groups in the U.S. and elsewhere have helped provide food, medication and health care for the tragic victims of terrorist regimes in Southeast Asia. (Photo Credit: World Vision International).

80046/2 "Whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." (Matt. 10:42, RSV). So said Jesus to his disciples. Tragic conditions in Southeast Asian refugee camps have provided Christians with opportunities to obey the word of Jesus. The Episcopal Church has joined a large number of other religious groups in responding to the urgent needs of Kampucheans and others by sending food, medicine and other means of assistance for the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been displaced from their homes. (Photo Credit: World Vision International).

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